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New York City rations gasoline purchases

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York City rationed gasoline yesterday in response to persistent shortages in the wake of superstorm Sandy.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that from 6:00 am (today), only cars with license plates ending in odd numbers would be allowed to fill up on odd-numbered dates. Cars with plates ending in an even number or a zero will be eligible on even-numbered days.

The rationing scheme was earlier implemented in neighboring New Jersey because of a fuel crisis that has resulted in

huge lines of cars and of pedestrians with jerrycans at gas stations.

"This is not a step that we take lightly," Bloomberg told a press conference, noting that measures to ease the flow of fuel supplies had not worked well enough.

"Only 25 percent of our gas stations we estimate are open," he added. "Frustrations are only growing and it now appears there will be shortages for possibly another couple weeks."

Police officers will patrol all city gas stations to enforce the rationing order, the mayor said.

Minister of Tourism Oduber explains the impact of Hurricane Sandy on Aruba's arrivals



Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes
CEO of ATA

Hurricane Sandy has been a wake up call for many, on an individual, community, city, state and global level. While some people in New Jersey and New York are still huddling around their fireplaces, (if they are fortunate to have one) waiting for power to get to their neighborhoods, Aruba, far away and dry, is also confronted with the impact of this storm.

Tourism is the principal pillar of Aruba's economy, and the Tri-State area accounts for more than half of the island's prime market. The advent of Sandy has been a low blow to the optimistically projected numbers expected for 2012, presented to the public by the Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, and CEO of the ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, in July of this year.

On Wednesday morning, the minister and Ms. Tjin Asjoe-Croes welcomed media to revise those projections, and report the impact of Sandy, during the storm, and advise the uncertainty for what is the busiest time of year for resorts, restaurants and activities. Aruba was experiencing very positive growth, and there were high

expectations for the final figures, due to advanced bookings for the prime weeks. The hotels still remain fully booked; if Sandy will actually deter travel and still cause cancellations has yet to be seen. The Minister reminded island media that much is depending on how quickly insurance companies can assess the damage to people's homes, how quickly they receive their settlements, and if they are sufficient to not require cash layout on the part of would be travelers.

Minister Oduber assures vendors relying on tourist business that his ministry, the ATA and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) are working steadily on a plan to make travel to Aruba as attractive as possible, and are exploring redirecting promotional funds to areas unaffected by Sandy.

Arrivals for the month of September had gone beyond expectations, with a 9.4% increase over 2011, of which 7.8% consisted of arrivals from the U.S. During the first 28 days of October, the month showed 4.8% growth over the previous year. Cancelled flights due to Sandy prevented more than 1400 travelers from arriving on island. It could have possibly been more, as during that



Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber

time 1700 airline seats would have been available. From October 29 to 31, all Jet Blue and Delta flights were cancelled, and the United/Continental plane reminded on the ground in Aruba, with their passengers stranded here.

While these figures are of interest to Aruba's economy, Minister Oduber and the ATA CEO reminds islanders that people in the northeast are dealing with an extreme situation, and Aruba is inquiring as to how they island can contribute positively to raise moral.

Continued on page 2

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Aruba's Hospital to recruit volunteers: a standard intl. practice

Head Facilitator of Aruba's Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital, John Fun, has been working on a project to incorporate volunteers into the hospital's care service. This project, reportedly, has now finally reached its implementation stage.

The Hospital reports that the volunteer staff will not be replacing their nurses. They will come alongside of nurses as support staff and carry out certain daily chores and so doing provide better service and additional attention to patients. The Hospital is already using volunteers, for example, in the Library, the Pastoral team who go to pray or accompany patients. Now they want to expand that service to patients. The volunteer team will be engaged in activities such as: taking patients for daily walks outside for fresh air, do errands, fetch newspapers, help take patients to laboratories for tests, and help with passing around meals. Hence, tasks not medically related which do not require a nurses training. In Holland they call these, "low complex tasks."

The use of volunteers in the hospital is something very normal and is practiced in the best hospitals around the world. It has been proven that this ser-



John Fun with Dr. Jaime Falconi,

vice contributes enormously to the general welfare of patients. John Fun reported on his recent trip to Baptist Hospital in the USA where they have as many as 400 volunteers assisting nurses in their 500 bed hospital. According to Fun, that hospital cannot imagine functioning without their volunteer crew.

Medical director of Aruba's Hospital, Dr. Jaime Falconi, emphasized that this system will function perfectly in Aruba, with certain precautions. Falconi said... "the idea of volunteers in our Hospital is something relatively new for Aruba. In the past, for security reasons and out of fear, our

hospital chose to use only professionally trained people to work with patients interned in our hospital."

The profile of volunteers must be of persons wanting to do humanitarian work, and persons committed to helping others in need. These persons cannot have any kind of antecedent or criminal record and must not be job seekers in the hospital. After the recruiting process, all applicants will be duly screened and carefully selected.

The Hospital will be introducing this service very cautiously and carefully to guarantee the safety and care of our patients.

Persons interested in joining the Hospital's volunteer crew; if you want to help others in this significant way contact the Hospital for more information.

After the selection of a crew, there will be an information session where everyone will meet each other and receive all relevant information. There will also be the signing of a formal contract.

For more information, please contact Rachelle Roos of the Facilitation Department at telephone: 527-4750 or via email at r.roos@arubahospital.com.

Aruba Court of Audit participate at second annual symposium of the High Councils of State



L.-r. mr. Frederick Nuboe, drs. Ling Wong, Prof. J. Saleh, Mrs. Jenny Croes RA M Sc and ARA President Gabriel Werleman.

See story on page 4

Crossing Kruisweg/Caya Betico Croes will be closed this weekend

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Public Works – DOW – informs the public and motorists in particular that beginning today the crossing of Kruisweg/Caya Betico Croes is be closed for renovation. The Department will excavate and install a tube across the road in the main street.

The road will be closed for

all traffic today, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. until tomorrow, November 10 at 12 noon. There will be traffic signs and barricades indicating the closure of the crossing.

Dow kindly asks all motorists to please NOT use abovementioned road during the weekend.

DOW also thanks motorists for their patience and understanding and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

the impact of Hurricane Sandy on Aruba's arrivals

Continued from page 1

A principal ATA office in Weehawken, N.J. was hard hit, and contact with Aruba's representative there, or even in his home, was impossible the first few days. Despite this setback, advance bookings and confirmations of travel indicate the island will end the year with an overall growth of 3%.

Aruba's tourism entities are meeting frequently with their tourism partners servicing the New York Tri-State area to work out a viable plan to compensate for the effects of Sandy. A major tourism event schedule for New York is still going to take place and Aruba will be there.

Rosalie Klein

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Aruba's got real talents!

Recently, The Morning News received an e-mail from Bernard Simon with the following message which he hopes would be a great inspiration to the youth of Aruba, especially the up and coming female professionals.

"I was rather skeptical attending a 3 hour mandatory course and would have tried to avoid it as much as possible. (With the thought "I know all that stuff. And, "Because of past experience I had with incompetent over-paid trainers from abroad and teachers that bored me to death during my college days who conveyed their lack of Passion in their dreary presentations"). Except that most of our team that had taken the course returned very excited and motivated.

"I will never forget the immediate transformation and illumination that I saw on the faces and in the behavior of those that attended previously, and I was, to say the least, very amazed.

"On Friday November 1st, 2012 at 1 o'clock to be exact our group gathered (we were part of the last group to attend as you might imagine) at the



Alhambra Casino ballroom and were greeted cordially by Miss. Chantal Beke HR/Training Manager Divi Aruba, and yes she is an Aruban.

"We were there to be introduced to "Inspired Hospitality" "Nos ta Calidad training". Chantal covered the Divi History and its credibility in the Hospitality Industry in the Caribbean and Divi's goal which is 100% guest satisfaction. "So many islands....so much fun.

"The importance of the Service Profit Chain was also covered from the bottom up, and the difference between 'involvement and 'commitment. Next came "Human Truths" everyone

wants to belong, we all like to feel special, the 80%/20% formula. Then came the little details that could leave a lasting impression like what the guest sees, feels, hears, smells, tastes and how they were treated, "you can never make a last impression twice"; all the above communicates and leaves a lasting impression. Volunteers were asked to role play the Weaver Communication Model with a lot of fun and laughter after seeing the end result.

"Divi's Vision/ Mission and Values statements were brought to the forefront and at the end the 4 Hospitality Rules. Chantal's method offers a new revolutionary and inspired

training for the Hospitality Industry to reach out and "touch" somebody with the "Aruba One Happy Island Experience" which became our trademark for many years and is spiraling out of control. Chantal clarifies that becoming a top Sales/Marketing person is dependent upon becoming a communicative, caring, compassionate and convincing individual. She not only sets you straight on the right and wrong human approach, she also presents you with a foolproof method for living and communicating with people in general. Specific ways of creating a positive rapport with people was presented so they become intrigued with the Island of Aruba. The Divi Experience was shared applying the "one Happy Island" approach; showing empathy, compassion, and that we care about the customer's desires, tastes and needs.

"With her sense of humor and encouragement she teaches you how to live a joyful and successful life at home and at work, by the manner in which we communicate with people.

"She shared her everlasting rich experience at a Hotel while vacationing in Italy as a student

with her family celebrating her birthday, and how that impacted her life.

"Winston Churchill said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.", and that's what Chantal lives for.

"Chantal's vision is to ensure that her work is helping people make changes in their lives to broaden their experience and deepen their connection with themselves and others. In essence, she strongly believes that every single person as well as large groups of people in our community can be calibrated for their energy levels and taken to a higher level of frequency vibration.

"With the Global shift taking place right now the message for the citizens of this "One Happy Island" is more timely and relevant than ever; empowering and igniting their path for a better Aruba! Each of us has the capacity to fulfill a deeper purpose to make a contribution to our Island and to help our guests enjoy a memorable stay on Aruba!

Bernard Simon
"Living with Passion"
November 5, 2012



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Aruba Court of Audit participated at second annual symposium of the High Councils of State in Sint Maarten

ORANJESTAD – Recently, a Court of Audit delegation participated at the second annual symposium of the High Councils of State in Sint Maarten. The theme was "Thoughts on Good Governance." Professor Jaime Saleh, Minister of State and former Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, addressed more than 250 invitees on what is good governance, how is it working and the important roles the High Councils of State play. Professor Saleh said that although several laws, regulations and the Constitution may in theory be part of the country's legal structures, they will only be applied if people un-

derstand what good governance means. It is for this reason that the High Councils of State are talking to communities regarding changing the mindset of the society. "If we have regulations and laws and we don't comply with them, or enforce these laws, then it is not worthwhile to have the laws. This is because we do with us not having them in our mindset. That is where you start, with educating the people to let them know," Professor Saleh passionately asserts.

He added that "in any democratic system nothing should be taken for granted. People must know "how to follow the rule of law, the

principle of good governance, the principle of transparency and the matter of integrity of our government, society and the public and private sector." He also alluded to the guarantee which has to be given by the Kingdom government about the matter of good governance in the Dutch Caribbean. The High Councils of State are the offices of the Ombudsman, the Council of Advice and the General Audit Chamber.

Among those invited to the event were the Council of Ministers, the Parliament, civil servants and the heads of various foundations of the island of St. Maarten.

ECB unveils launch of new euro banknotes in May

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank announced yesterday that it will launch a new series of euro banknotes gradually over the coming years, starting with a new five-euro note in May 2013.

ECB chief Mario Draghi told a news conference here that the current notes, launched on January 1, 2002, would be gradually withdrawn from circulation.

"The European Central Bank and the national central banks of the eurosystem are to introduce a second series of euro banknotes. Called the 'Europa' series, it will include a portrait of Europa -- a figure from Greek mythology and the origin of the name of our continent -- in the watermark and the hologram.

"The new banknotes will be introduced gradually over several years, starting with the five-euro banknote in May 2013," Draghi said.

The new series would benefit from advances in banknote technology since the first series was introduced more than ten years ago. Its

security features have been enhanced, the ECB said.

The new banknotes would have the same colours and same denominations as the current ones -- five, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros -- but would be "easy to distinguish from the first series."

They would be introduced in ascending order, so that after the five-euro note, the 10-euro bank would follow.

Initially, the first series would circulate alongside the new banknotes, but old notes will gradually be withdrawn and eventually cease to be legal tender.

The date for this would be announced "well in advance."

However, the banknotes of the first series would retain their value indefinitely and can be exchanged at the eurosystem national central banks at any time.

The new five-euro notes would be unveiled in full on January 10 2013 and banks would start to issue the new notes over the counter or via cash dispensers in May next year, the ECB said.



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Fofoti Tours & Transfers with New Office in Palm Beach

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ORANJESTAD - Fofoti Tours & Transfers is proud to establish its presence in the area of Palm Beach with the opening of its new office. Conveniently located across the South Beach mall in the heart of the high-rise hotel area. The information center aims to provide customer service, booking and reservations opportunities and function as an overall information point for passers by. With the rapid growth in demand from both local partners and visitors alike in two short years, the creation of this office was the right thing to do.

"The new office represents our commitment to growing our business and competing soundly by setting a higher standard, providing exceptional service and at a great price. We are excited!" says Sharlise Croes, Managing Director.

Scheduled to officially open ending of November 2012, opening hours will be from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm for the first few weeks of operation and hereafter the office will extend its opening hours to evenings until 10:00 pm.

"We have had tremendous success over the last two years and we continue to see potential for more growth," notes Croes. "The new office allows us to build the market, promote the Fofoti brand and provide visitors with a new level of service that Fofoti is known for in the local and international markets."

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Technical Inspection Department being upgraded



ORANJESTAD – The Management of Information and Automation (DIA), which operates under the Ministry of General Affairs, and the Technical Inspection Department (DTI), under the Ministry of Justice and Education, inform the public that the Technical Inspection Department's services

will be upgraded with a more modern computer system. The department will get 50 new computers and 2 servers. The servers will come with the latest in software technology and enormous capacity, enabling the department to give better service to the public.

Besides inspecting all types of vehicles, the DTI is also in charge of the labor and technical security of citizens, companies and businesses.

The automation project is in the expert hands of DIA - under the guidance of Stuart Willems, Carl Dijkhoff, BSc, Suzette Ling, MSc and Hoon Ying Chai, BSc, and from DTI - Ing. Dominco Werleman, Ing. Enrique Maduro, Ing. Edwin Kock, and Ing. Sylvio Werleman.

A special 'thank you' goes to the following parties involved,



who helped with this project: the Aruban Government, in particular, Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers - who took care for the financing and speedy approval. Thanks also go to DIA director,

Ing. Carlos Bermudez, DTI director, Ing. Dominco Werleman, project members of both the DIA and DTI department and all employees of the DTI for their cooperation. Last, but not least, special 'thank you'

goes to Luciano Boekhoudt of the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) for his contribution with the Geographic information system (GIS) works.

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International news

Media: Giffords shooter given seven life sentences

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The gunman who shot US congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in a massacre that left six others dead in Arizona was given seven life sentences plus 140 years in jail yesterday, local media reported.

"He'll never have the opportunity to pick up a gun again," said Judge Larry Burns, according to Tucson, Arizona's KVOA TV, as he sentenced Jared Lee Loughner.

The sentence, without the possibility of parole, was part of a deal with prosecutors under which the 24-year-old pleaded guilty in August to the January 2011 attack.

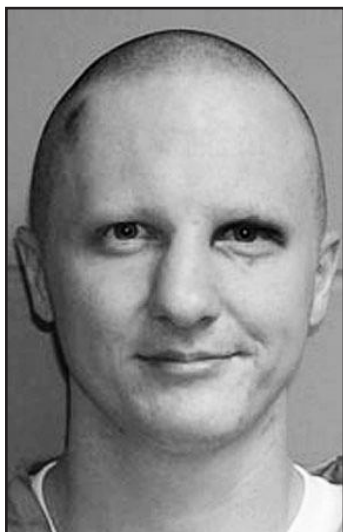
Giffords was in court, although she did not speak. But her astronaut husband Mark Kelly addressed Loughner in court, saying: "Every day is a continuous struggle to do the things she was once so very good at."

"Gabby would trade her own life for one you took on that day," he said, cited by Tucson TV station KVOA.

"You tried to create a world as dark and evil as your own. Remember this: You failed," according to the AZ Central news website.

Loughner's only words were "Yes, sir" when the judge asked if he had agreed to decline comment.

Victims and relatives of



Jared Lee Loughner.

victims gave emotional testimony before Loughner was sentenced.

"You took away my life, my love, my reason for living," said Mavanell Stoddard, whose 76-year-old husband Dorwan died trying to shield her from the bullets.

"I felt his body give.. I was holding him as he died," she said, but told Loughner: "I forgive you. I don't hate you. I hate the act," according to tweets by KVOA.

"You forgot to shoot yourself," she added, cited by NBC News.

Both KVOA and Tucson News Now initially reported that he was given six life sentences, but updated the sentence a short time later.

Northeast digs out from snow following hurricane

NEW YORK - New York City and much of the U.S. Northeast yesterday dug out from a snowstorm that hammered a region still struggling to recover from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy.

The unseasonably early winter storm dumped more than a foot of snow on parts of Connecticut and slapped the region with 50 mph winds, plunging hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses back into darkness and creating a new commuting nightmare for a region whose transportation system was already under repair.

Bitter cold, rain, snow and powerful winds added to the misery of disaster victims whose homes were destroyed or power was knocked out by Sandy, which smashed ashore on October 29 and caused widespread flooding.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo fired the state's



A woman clears snow from her parked car in N.J.

emergency management chief, Steven Kuhr, for sending government workers to Kuhr's Long Island home to clear a tree toppled by Sandy, according to media reports.

Some 715,000 homes and businesses in the region were without power, an increase of nearly 43,000 from Wednesday night after the nor'easter knocked power out to more

customers following those who had lost power due to Sandy, the U.S. Department of Energy said.

The Nor'Easter bearing down on New England Wednesday has been given the name "Athena" by the folks at The Weather Channel -- the inaugural name on the list of winter storm names the channel created this season.

WikiLeaks suspect offers guilty plea on some charges

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US soldier accused of leaking a trove of secret files to WikiLeaks has offered to plead guilty to some but not all of the charges he faces in a pending court-martial, his defense lawyer said.

Bradley Manning, 24, "is not pleading guilty to the specifications as charged by the Government," his attorney, David Coombs wrote on his blog on Wednesday.

"Rather, PFC (Private First Class) Manning is attempting to accept responsibility for offenses that are encapsulated within, or are a subset of, the charged offenses," he wrote.

It was up to a military court to rule whether his plea was "legally permissible," and then government prosecutors would

have to decide if they would continue to pursue all the charges against Manning, he said.

"PFC Manning is not submitting a plea as part of an agreement or deal with the Government," Coombs added.

The defense relayed the offer to a military judge at pre-trial hearings held at Fort Meade, Maryland on Wednesday and yesterday.

By making the offer, Manning indicated he was ready to plead guilty to passing government information to WikiLeaks, though it was unclear if he would admit to passing all the files cited by prosecutors.

If the plea is deemed legal by the court, it could potentially simplify the trial, which is due to start on February 4,

2013, and possibly shield Manning from being convicted on more serious federal offenses related to computer fraud and the Espionage Act.

Manning had the option of being tried by a military jury but he informed the court he preferred to be tried by a judge only, according to Coombs.

Arrested in May 2010 while serving as an army intelligence analyst near Baghdad, Manning is charged with leaking classified military intelligence files on Iraq and Afghanistan and about 260,000 cables from the State Department.

The publication of the sensitive files by the secret-spilling WikiLeaks website caused huge embarrassment to Washington and angered US allies.

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International news

Guatemala quake toll rises to 52



SAN MARCOS (AFP) - Guatemalan rescuers searched yesterday for people trapped in the ruins of homes after a powerful earthquake killed 52 people and left thousands spending the cold night outside.

Twenty-two people were still missing a day after the 7.4-magnitude quake in the southwestern region of San Marcos toppled homes and cut off power in several towns.

The search had been called off during the night for safety reasons.

Thousands of people in the town of San Marcos wrapped themselves in blankets to keep warm outside overnight as aftershocks continued to rock the mountainous region.

Rescuers found three more bodies in the town of San Cristobal Cucho yesterday and another one in El Recreo, a firefighters' spokesman said.

President Otto Perez said yesterday the death toll had risen to 52 from 48 the day before. Power was restored in 95 percent of homes, he added.

The San Marcos department, located at the border with Mexico and some 250 kilometers (155 miles) west of Guatemala City, bore the brunt of the earthquake, which crushed cars and spread debris on roads.

In San Cristobal Cucho, an entire family of 10, including six children, died when their home was buried in rocks and earth that slid from a hill after the earthquake, Mayor Pedro Cardona said.

"The whole village is in mourning because an entire family was taken by God's nature," he told local television. "What can we do?"

Some 16,000 people were affected by the tremor, which was the country's most violent seismic event since 1976, when almost 23,000 people perished.

Authorities opened 11 shel-

ters that can house 800 people.

The earthquake was felt as far away as El Salvador and Mexico City. Thousands of people fled homes, offices and schools in the Mexican capital when the quake hit on Wednesday morning.

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck Wednesday morning off the Pacific coast, some 24 kilometers south of Champerico and 163 kilometers west-southwest of Guatemala City. The depth was 41.6 kilometers.

The streets of San Marcos, a town dotted with colonial-style, single-floor homes, were covered in debris. Older homes were in pieces but newer ones withstood the shock.

Several aftershocks rattled residents, who used lamps to look for pillows and covers in what was left of their homes to keep warm during the night.

On Wednesday, rescue workers and residents looked for people buried in sand in a quarry.

"We feel powerless in front of this quantity of sand, which fell on people, and not being able to dig them out quickly," 30-year-old social worker Alfonso told AFP. "You feel like your hands won't reach people."

Brazilian architect Niemeyer has worsening renal function

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Renown architect Oscar Niemeyer remains hospitalized in a Rio hospital yesterday with doctors reporting that the 104-year-old's renal function worsened.

Doctor Fernando Gjurup, from Samaritano hospital where Niemeyer was readmitted last Friday, said however that the Brazilian icon "is lucid and breathing without a ventilator."

A hospital statement did not say when the architect, who was hospitalized after a bout of

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No power for tens of thousands in Argentine capital

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentine authorities yesterday scrambled to find the cause of a blackout that left tens of thousands of Buenos Aires customers without power for more than 24 hours.

The blackout, which struck late Wednesday in the middle of a heat wave, at first left 3.4 million customers without

power. By yesterday 200,000 were still in the dark.

"We have not found a cause that could have justified" the blackout, said Planning Minister Julio de Vido, suggesting that sabotage may have played a role.

"The situation was striking because the main power line was operating at half of its ca-

capacity," said de Vido. "We cannot blame the heat wave."

De Vido said the government was trying to find out "who pulled the switch, who interrupted power service," and would file a criminal complaint "for the possible commission of the crime of a partial or total destruction of the electric energy service."

Jordan king asks Obama to work on Mideast peace

AMMAN (AFP) - Jordan's King Abdullah II yesterday congratulated Barack Obama on his re-election, telling him the Middle East's future "hinges on" resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"Your re-election gives you

a second important chance to achieve peace in the Middle East," a statement quoted the king as saying in a letter to Obama. "The future of the Middle East hinges on finding a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

The king, whose country is

a key US ally that has a 1994 peace treaty with Israel, said "our joint efforts must continue to accomplish this objective."

Jordanians of Palestinian origin form a significant proportion of the kingdom's 6.7 million population, according to experts.



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Health & Living

EU hands Liberia 42 mn euros to cut maternal mortality

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission on Thursday pledged 42 million euros to Liberia's president and Nobel peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to help halve one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates.

With 770 women per 100,000 dying due to causes linked to childbirth, Liberia has the world's seventh worst maternal mortality rate but hopes to bring it down to 375. Britain in comparison sees 12 such deaths per 100,000 and is in 146th place.

The announcement was made during talks between the Liberian leader and the EU's development commissioner Andris Piebalgs.

Around four women die each day from childbirth or pregnancy-related conditions, with only 37 percent of deliveries in health facilities and 46 percent of births attended by trained personnel.

The funds will be used to rehabilitate health centres, provide medical equipment and train staff.

Educated migrants discriminated against for Swiss jobs

GENEVA (AFP) - Immigrants with advanced education face discrimination when looking for work in Switzerland and are three times more likely than Swiss nationals to be unemployed, according to a study released Thursday.

"Some highly qualified immigrants face discrimination on the Swiss labour market, even when they have a Swiss education," Switzerland's Federal Commission against Racism (CFR) lamented in a statement, citing a study conducted at the University of Basel.


People originally from Turkey, the Balkans and Portu-

gal were especially discriminated against in employment, according to the study.

A full five percent of highly qualified foreign nationals living in Switzerland were unemployed, compared to just 1.5 percent of Swiss citizens with the same level of education, the study found.

The CFR called on employers to work to change that trend, recommending that they take an "integrated approach of diversity."

Switzerland counts around 1.8 million immigrants, who make up nearly 23 percent of its 7.95-million strong population.



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US porn filmmakers contest forced condom use

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US porn film producers vowed Wednesday to go to court to challenge a decision by Los Angeles County voters requiring actors in adult movies to wear condoms while performing on set.

The Free Speech Coalition, which describes itself as "the adult product and entertainment industry's trade association," said forcing actors to wear condoms would make porn filmmaking "untenable."

The multimillion-dollar US adult movie industry, which is largely based in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, has argued that fewer viewers would want to see porn films with actors using condoms.

The LA County's Department of Public Health will use the fees received for permits to fund inspections of film sets to ensure actors are complying

with the requirement for performers to use condoms while engaging in sex acts.

Actors or producers violating the rules will face fines or possible criminal charges.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation, one of five groups that spearheaded the poll push, welcomed the result that saw

55.9 percent of voters back the condom-use proposal.

Last year, California porn filmmakers were forced to suspend production temporarily, after an actor tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, in the latest such disruption to the industry.



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Sci-Tech

Foxconn says cannot meet demand for iPhone 5

TAIPEI (AFP) - Taiwan's Foxconn has admitted that it cannot meet strong demand for Apple's new iPhone 5 due to difficulties in building the gadget, as investors grow concerned about the US giant's future earnings.

They added that the design of the iPhone 5, of which five million were sold over its launch weekend in September, has made production difficult, but did not elaborate.

He declined to say whether Foxconn plans to outsource some of the iPhone orders to other makers.

The iPhone has been a huge driver of Apple's phenomenal profits, along with the iPad, both of which are made by Foxconn, which also manufactures products for other firms such as Nokia, Intel and Sony.

Apple has also faced much criticism since the launch of the iPhone 5, following a number of problems.

It was forced to apologise soon after the phone's launch because of its glitch-ridden maps application in the new operating system, which led the firm to urge customers to use rival apps while improvements were made.

The company is also undergoing a management overhaul and last month announced the executive in charge of Maps, Siri and other software in the iPhone is leaving as part of a shakeup.

Taiwan-based Foxconn is the world's largest contract electronics maker and assembles products for Apple, Sony and Nokia, among others in its factories in China.

Apple's iTunes to sell rival Sony's Japanese songs



TOKYO (AFP) - Sony said Thursday that music by its Japanese artists was now available on Apple's iTunes store, in an apparent strategy shift by the Japanese firm to cash in on soaring demand for online music.

Sony, which competes with Apple's iPod and iPhone in the portable music player market, said its copyrighted Japanese-language songs had been made available for sale on iTunes from this week.

Earlier this year, Sony Music Entertainment allowed songs by its Western artists to be sold on Apple's online store, after reportedly keeping them away for years.

Some analysts saw the latest

move as part of a shift by Sony to reverse years of losses largely tied to its struggling television division.

But a Sony spokesman said its Japanese artists' debut on iTunes was held up by protracted contract negotiations, not a strategy to keep its rival from selling Sony-copyrighted music.

Sony's once-iconic Walkman music player outsells Apple's iPod in Japan, but the overall market is shrinking as more consumers use smartphones to play digital music, Mori said.

The iPod has dug into the Walkman's dominant position as Sony also faces competition in its videogame division from rivals including Japan's Nintendo and US firm Microsoft, which makes the Xbox.

Sony, which reported a smaller quarterly loss last week and said it remained on track to eke out a small full-year profit, has struggled with a strong yen, high labour costs and fierce competition from overseas rivals.

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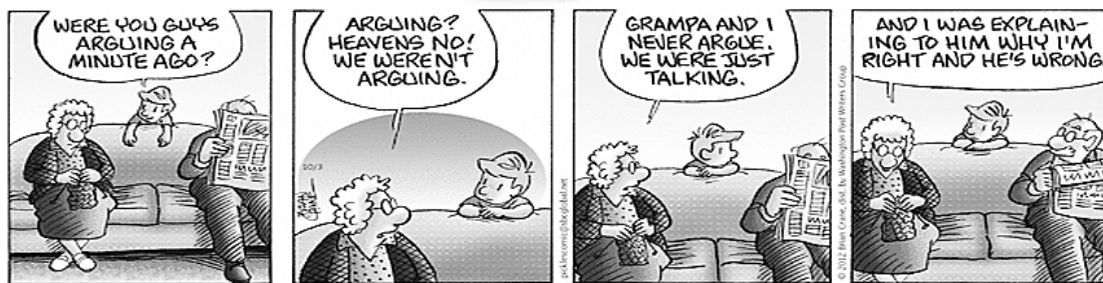
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France demands explanation of Iranian blogger's death

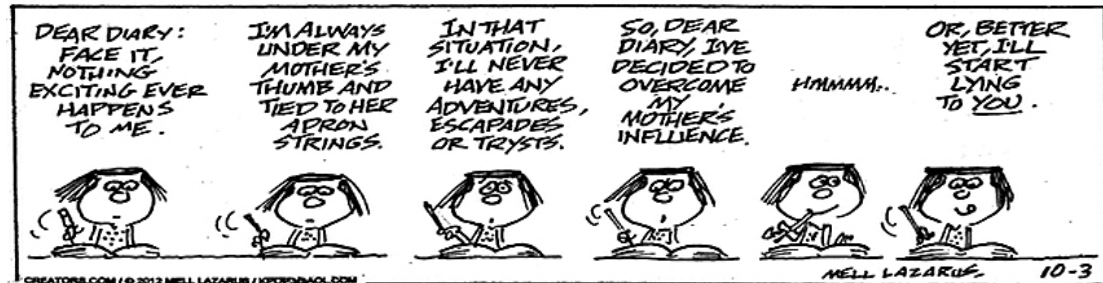
PARIS (AFP) - France on Thursday called on the Iranian authorities to explain the death in custody of a blogger who, opposition activists say, was killed by torture for criticising the regime on the Internet. A French foreign ministry spokesman said Paris was "profoundly shocked" to have learned of the death in custody of 35-year-old Sattar Beheshti. "We call on the Iranian authorities to shed as much light as possible on the circumstances of his death." "The repression of peacefully expressed dissident voices in Iran is unacceptable." According to opposition groups, Beheshti's family were asked on Wednesday to collect his body from the Kahrizak detention centre in Tehran, where he had been held since being arrested on October 30. In the last blog he wrote before his arrest, Beheshti had said he was being constantly harassed by telephone by members of the security services. "Yesterday they threatened to tell my mother that she would soon be wearing black if I did not shut up," he wrote.

COMICS

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YOU CHIMED?

ACROSS

1. Politico Landon
4. Hot times, in Nice
8. Theda Bara, e.g.
12. "Runaway" rocker Shannon
13. Racetrack's inside lane
14. "Night" author Wiesel
15. Flat — pancake
16. Lecher's look
17. Coating of ice
18. "Walker, —"
21. Suitably
23. Make a tear disappear
24. Cuban, for one

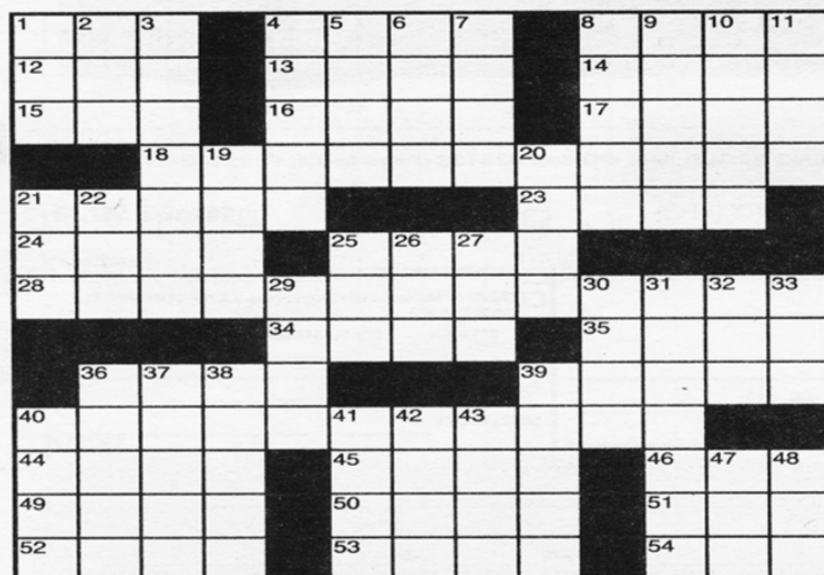
25. Ethiopian slave of opera
28. Illegal wrestling grabs
34. Cartoonish squeals
35. Famous ski resort
36. Mallet game
39. Comedian Hill
40. Layout
44. Winter outerwear
45. Cassini of fashion
46. "— Luna" (Allende novel)
49. Remote button
50. One of Michael's four

51. Ocacek of the Cars
52. First garden
53. "And — thou slain the Jabberwock?" (Carroll)
54. Monarch capturer

DOWN

1. Town southeast of Oklahoma City
2. "— Liaisons Dangereuses"
3. Pour on the praise
4. Strong glue
5. Caesar's wear
6. Extensions

7. Predictor
8. Author Jules
9. Put arow
10. Emulated Marcel Marceau
11. Gaze narrowly
19. Singer Fitzgerald
20. Far East nanny
21. Cries of delight
22. Beloved beast
25. Auden's "The — of Anxiety"
26. Kind
27. — Plains
29. Broadway brightener
30. Baking place
31. Lighting device
32. "Gunga —"
33. Stallone's nickname
36. "— Mary" (Ike and Tina's hit)
37. Make a speech
38. Make tardy
39. Fathered
40. Peak
41. Teutonic invader
42. "Imperfect Sympathies" author
43. New York nine
47. Life on the Riviera
48. Practice the Stanislavsky method



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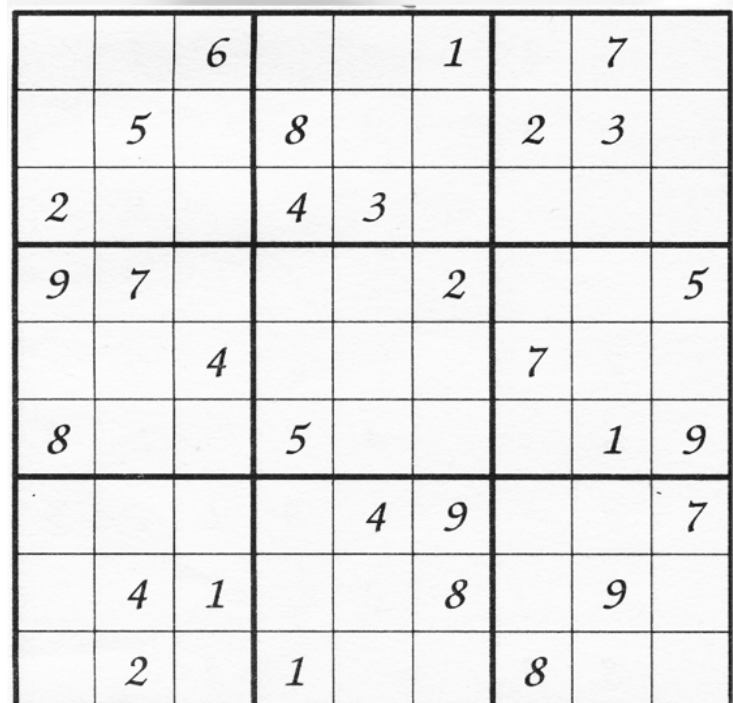
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9	6	5	8	7	2	1	3	4
2	1	6	3	4	5	8	9	7
6	1	8	7	2	5	3	9	4
7	9	2	1	8	6	4	5	3
5	8	7	2	1	9	3	6	4
1	5	9	2	4	7	8	6	3
4	3	9	6	8	7	5	1	2
8	2	6	1	5	3	9	4	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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FINANCE

McDonald's sales drop for first time since 2003



McDonald's Corp. is having trouble stomaching the competition. The world's biggest hamburger chain said yesterday that a key sales figure fell for the first time in nearly a decade in October, as it faced intensifying competition and a challenging economy. The Oak Brook-based company says global revenue at restaurants open at least 13 months fell 1.8 percent for the month. The last time it dropped was in March 2003.

IMF warns of political limits to austerity

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund has warned that austerity programs in Europe's most troubled economies could have political limits, as resistance grows in Greece and Portugal over their bailout terms.

In a briefing made for the November 4-5 meeting of G20 leading economies in Mexico and released yesterday in Washington, the IMF said that financial conditions in the eurozone "remain fragile" and there are risks that countries asking for support will be unable to fulfill adjustment demands made on them.

It said that troubled countries may be prevented by "political economy factors" from moving in a timely fashion to request needed support from the European Stability Mechanism and the European Central Bank's new OMT bond-buying support operations.

The IMF said that recent policy actions, like the OMT

program and the launch of the ESM, had eased some financial stress in the eurozone.

"Financial markets have experienced welcome respite recently and there are signs that the pace of activity has picked up relative to the second quarter," it said in the briefing for Group of 20 finance ministers.

"Nonetheless, the global economy remains vulnerable to new setbacks," it said, mentioning political battles over fiscal adjustment in the United States and Japan.

"While downside risks may have diminished somewhat lately, they still appear much higher than half a year ago, it said.

In Europe, it said, if financial stress surges again, pressure would mount on governments to expand austerity operations to keep their budgets under control, "resulting in larger GDP losses and significant spillovers on other economies."

The warning came as Greece in particular seeks an easing of the targets of its austerity program and its debt terms to reverse a deep recession.

Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of August 2012:

Net Foreign Assets Decreased

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of August 2012 that broad money contracted by Afl. 24.3 million to Afl. 3,136.9 million, resulting from an Afl. 33.4 million drop in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) to Afl. 1,041.8 million. This decrease was partially offset by an Afl. 9.1 million rise in net domestic assets to Afl. 2,095.1 million at the end of August 2012. The decline in net foreign assets was caused by net outflows related to both current and capital transactions. Current transactions resulted in an Afl. 17.2 million net outflow of foreign funds, due mainly to payments for the import of goods and services, and interest payments, which were partially offset by gross tourism receipts. Capital transactions recorded a net outflow of foreign funds of Afl. 16.2 million, attributed mostly to net transfers to foreign accounts of resident companies. The increase in the domestic component of the money supply was associated with an Afl. 22.7 million growth in domestic credit and an Afl. 13.6 million decline in non-credit related balance sheet items. Domestic credit grew as a result of an Afl. 24.1 million rise in the net liability of the public sector to the banking sector, attributed to decreases in government's deposits and development funds of, respectively, Afl. 17.4 million and Afl. 6.7 million. In contrast, claims of the banking sector on the private sector

dropped slightly by Afl. 1.4 million (-0.1 percent), following declines in consumer credit and commercial loans of, respectively, Afl. 4.8 million and Afl. 0.5 million, while housing mortgages expanded by Afl. 4.4 million.

The consumer price index (CPI) for August 2012 registered a 2.8 percent decrease, compared to the same month of 2011. The main contributors to this drop were housing, clothing & footwear, and household operation. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly affects the housing and transport components), the core CPI showed a 0.7 percent decrease compared to August 2011, brought about by declines in the index categories of clothing, household operation and recreation and culture. The 12-month average inflation rate reached 3.6 percent in August 2012, down from 4.4 percent in July 2012.

The number of stay-over visitors totaled 83,721 in August 2012, 5.4 percent higher than in August 2011. This growth was caused by increases of 6.3 percent (+2,715 visitors) and 9.9 percent (+2,381 visitors) in the number of visitors from North America and Latin America, respectively. The growth in the North American market resulted from hikes in arrivals from the United States and Canada of, respectively, 4.3 percent

(+1,805 visitors) and 56.3 percent (+910 visitors). The expansion in the Latin American market segment was attributed mostly to an increase in visitors from Venezuela of 13.4 percent (+2,217 visitors). In contrast, the number of visitors from the European market fell by 6.9 percent to 8,309. The number of cruise visitors surged by 6,244 or 117.6 percent to 11,552 in the month of August 2012 compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of ship calls picked up slightly from 6 to 7 in August 2012 compared to August 2011.

In August 2012, registered tax revenue totaled Afl. 73.9 million, an increase of Afl. 7.4 million or 11.1 percent, compared to the same month of the previous year. This growth was associated mostly with surges in revenue from profit, income and land tax of, respectively, Afl. 7.2 million, Afl. 3.0 million and Afl. 2.4 million. In contrast, revenue from wage tax and gambling licenses fell by, respectively, Afl. 4.2 million and Afl. 2.1 million. Foreign exchange tax and turnover tax (BBO) also noted a slight drop of, respectively, Afl. 0.3 million and Afl. 0.1 million. In addition, non-tax revenue recorded a decline of Afl. 5.2 million in August 2012 compared to the same month of last year.



Current as of: 11/08/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.78	2.83	2.89
Switzerland	CHF	187.94	188.66	189.46
Netherlands	EUR	224.78	226.83	229.11
Sweden	SEK	25.67	26.39	27.19
Denmark	DKK	29.44	30.16	30.96
Norway	NOK	30.10	30.82	31.62
Japan	JPY	220.94	222.96	225.20

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Colombian rebels' Dutch recruit shares hopes for peace



HAVANA (AFP) - Tanja Nijmeijer, a Dutch woman who fights alongside Colombia's FARC rebels, hopes to see peace and social justice in the country thanks to peace talks set to begin next week.

"We have a lot of hope that at last the Colombian government will consent to the reforms the country needs and that at last, peace can reign," Nijmeijer told AFP in an exclusive interview the day after her arrival in Cuba, where she is to participate in the negotiations opening November 15.

Her vision, she said, is for more than an end to fighting: "not only silencing of weapons -- peace with social justice."

The 34-year-old, speaking in perfect Spanish, honed during her decade in the jungle with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), said she was excited to be in Cuba, the only single-party communist state in the Americas.

"I've always wanted to see Cuba," she confessed with a

bright grin. She used her first day in Havana to tour the old city along with other FARC members, including FARC number two Ivan Marquez.

"Cuba is an example for the world. Here, one doesn't see poverty in the street. People are well-dressed, and there aren't beggars," Nijmeijer said.

Designated a spokeswoman for the Marxist guerrilla group during the negotiations, the Dutch woman was the last of the rebel delegates to arrive in Cuba.

She translates for the rebels, teaches Marxist principles and helps with public communications.

In Cuba the talks will start with the thorny issue of rural development. Colombia has wide income disparities, with many rural areas lacking basic services and infrastructure.

The talks will also address land distribution. Colombia's countryside is full of large plots mostly owned by the wealthy and little land is available to small farmers who want their own plots.

Land reform was at the heart of a peasant uprising in the 1960s that saw the formation of FARC. Access to farmland remains an important issue in a country where half the population lives in poverty.

The four other main points on the agenda are the rebels' future role in political life, a definitive end to hostilities, fighting the illegal drug trade and the situation of victims.

As with other delegates, Colombia's attorney general had to lift arrest warrants pending against Nijmeijer.

She is also sought by the US for the 2003 kidnapping of three Americans -- held captive for five years before being freed in a daring operation by Colombian commandos in

2008.

Rebels have asked for fellow FARC member Simon Trinidad, serving a 60-year-sentence in the US for the same kidnappings, to be pardoned so he can participate in the talks.

On Wednesday, the day after President Barack Obama's re-election for a second term, the rebels appealed to him directly for Trinidad's release. The US has so far refused.

The inclusion of Nijmeijer -- the rebels' only known European recruit -- among the peace talk delegates was also controversial. It was seen by the government side as an attempt by FARC to curry favor in Europe and bolster its international image.

FARC is classified as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

She dismissed Colombia's allegations against her.

"All these legal excuses don't stand up -- they're all political. It makes them mad that a foreigner is involved in the conflict and speaks positively about the FARC," she said.

Asked about her private life, the young woman deflected, saying "it's been 10 years since I got married to the people's army, and that's fine with me."

Founded in 1964 and Latin America's largest rebel group with 9,200 armed fighters, the FARC may be ready for peace after a long string of setbacks.

In recent years, the group has suffered the capture and killing of some of its top leaders, and the depletion of its ranks to half what they were at their peak in the 1990s.

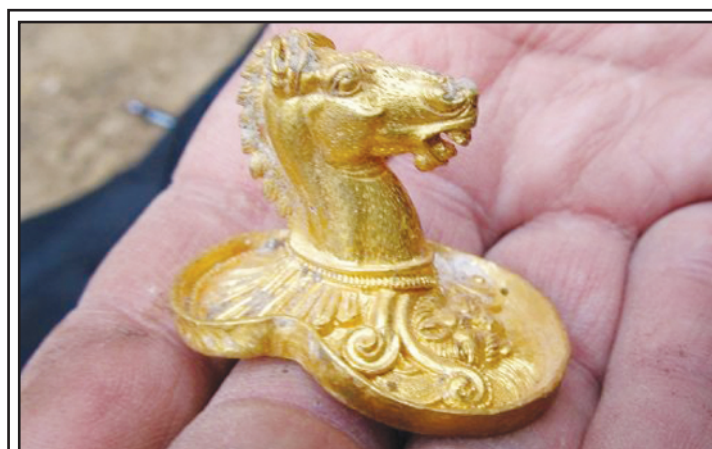
These are to be the first peace negotiations in a decade after three previous failed attempts.

Assad rejects exile, vows to 'live and die' in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) - A defiant President Bashar al-Assad rejected on Thursday calls he seek a safe exit, vowing he would "live in Syria and die in Syria," as fighting raged in Damascus. "I am not a puppet. I was not made by the West to go to the West or to any other country," Assad said in English in an interview with Russian state-backed RT television. "I am Syrian, I was made in Syria, I have to live in Syria and die in Syria," he said, according to transcripts posted on RT's website.



On Tuesday, British Prime Minister David Cameron floated the idea of granting Assad safe passage from the country, saying it "could be arranged," although he wanted the Syrian leader to face international justice. Assad also warned against a foreign intervention in Syria's escalating conflict, saying such a move would have global consequences and shake regional stability. "We are the last stronghold of secularism and stability in the region... it will have a domino effect that will affect the world from the Atlantic to the Pacific," the transcript said. Many in Syria's opposition, including rebels waging fierce battles with pro-regime forces, have urged world powers to intervene to stop the escalating bloodshed. The Observatory says more than 37,000 people have died since the uprising against Assad erupted in March 2011, first as a protest movement and then an armed rebellion after the regime cracked down on demonstrations.



SOFIA — Bulgarian archaeologists have unearthed a trove of gold objects from the late fourth or early third century BC in the northeast of the country, the team chief said Thursday. The objects found near the village of Sveshtari included a gold tiara engraved with a lion's head and other animals, bracelets, a ring and gold horse tack ornaments, and were dug up overnight, she said. They most likely belonged to the Getae tribe of the Thracians, skilled goldsmiths who inhabited lands extending from the Caucasus to southwest Europe and who are still veiled in mystery. The Getae inhabited the region from the second millennium BC to the third century AD. A lavish tomb of the tribe discovered in 1982 in Sveshtari is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, (\$4.49 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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NHL:

NEW YORK (AFP) - National Hockey League owners and players were in further negotiations aimed at securing a new contract and ending the lockout that has already cost hundreds of regular-season games.

Tuesday's seven hours of talks were followed by more than five hours of bargaining on Wednesday at an undisclosed location in New York City.

Neither side divulged details of the talks, but said they would continue.

Club owners and players have remained deadlocked on how to divide \$3.3 billion in revenues since the old contract expired on September 15.

The league has already wiped out the first 326 regular-season games through November 30 and the Winter Classic outdoor game that had been scheduled for New Year's Day as a result of the stalemate.

With 26.5 percent of games already scrapped, the latest talks were seen as a hopeful step in trying to avoid a repeat of the bitter 2004-2005 dispute, when an entire season was lost to money issues for the only time in North American sport history.

More games figure to be wiped out if the sides cannot close out a deal within the next two weeks.

The tragic title fight that changed boxing

SEOUL, South Korea (AFP) - Thirty years ago this month, South Korean boxer Kim Duk-Koo entered a Las Vegas ring for a world championship bout that would end with his death, trigger at least one suicide and change the sport forever.

For a generation of South Koreans, millions of whom watched live on television, the fight between Kim and world lightweight champion, Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, remains a powerful memory.

Now a new book and accompanying documentary that coincide with the 30th anniversary hope to shed fresh light on the bout, its tragic aftermath and the impact it had on the lives and families of its two protagonists.

For Kim, then 23 and fighting for the first time in the United States, the glitz of Caesar's Palace with its celebrity audience including the likes of Frank Sinatra, was a different universe from his impoverished upbringing in Korea.

"I remember when we landed in Las Vegas for the fight," his trainer, Kim Yoon-Gu, now 56, recalled.

"The city was all lit up at night. It was like landing on a garden of flowers in the desert. We'd never seen anything like it," he told AFP at the boxing gym he runs in Seoul.

US boxing commentators had pretty much written Kim Duk-Koo off before the November 13, 1982 clash with Mancini, a powerful 21-year-old from Youngstown, Ohio making his second defence of the world title.

But Kim was confident. Before leaving Seoul he had a carpenter rig up a mock coffin which he said he would use to bring back Mancini after the

fight.

Unimpressed with such bravado, his trainer stomped it to pieces which he then hid under the ring in Kim's training camp.

-- A brutal fight --

The fight when it came was a particularly brutal one.

For 13 rounds, the two men went toe-to-toe in a slugging match that left both with badly swollen faces and struggling to see through bruised, puffed-up eyes.

At the end of the 13th, Kim Yoon-Gu tried to lift his fighter, telling him Mancini was exhausted and exhorting him to put in one last effort to finish him off.

"He clenched his teeth, nodded and said 'Yes, I'll do that'. And that was it. That was the last thing he ever said," Kim said.

At the beginning of the 14th, Mancini connected with a straight right that snapped Kim's head back and sent him crashing to the canvas.

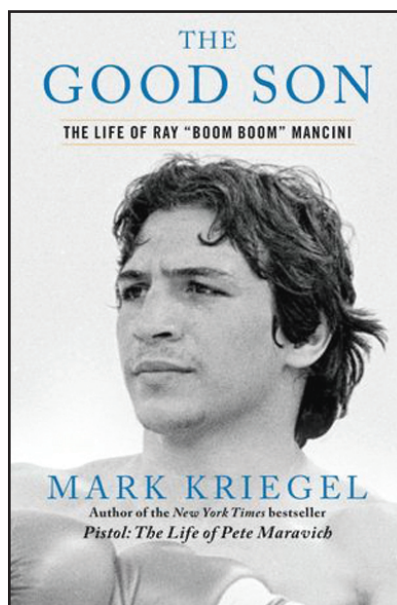
The Korean managed to haul himself up by the ropes to beat the count, but referee Richard Green stepped in to stop the fight.

Kim Yoon-Gu had been tending to his corner and missed the actual knockout blow, but when he saw Kim on the ground, he knew at once that the fight was over.

"He was obviously hurt, but at that time we had no idea it was so serious," he said.

Back in his corner, Kim collapsed and was taken from the ring on a stretcher to hospital where he was diagnosed with a blood clot on the brain and underwent emergency surgery.

He lapsed into a coma from which he never recovered and four days later he died.



On the flight back to South Korea, a traumatised Kim Yoon-Gu locked himself in the toilet and "cried and cried until we landed.

"I thought about quitting the sport entirely. In the end, I decided to stick with it, but it was a very, very difficult time," he said at his gym where photos and posters of Kim Duk-Koo adorn the walls.

-- Suicide, depression and redemption --

The consequences of the Kim-Mancini bout were far-reaching and tragic in their own right.

Four months after her son's death, Kim's distraught mother killed herself by drinking a bottle of pesticide.

Four months after that, referee Richard Green also took his own life, although there was no indication that his suicide was linked to the outcome of the fight for which he was never held in any way responsible.

Mancini, a devout Catholic, endured a prolonged period of depression and, although he

fought again, was never the same boxer.

"In all the obvious ways, he was haunted," American sportswriter Mark Kriegel, author of a new biography of Mancini titled "The Good Son," told AFP in a telephone interview.

"He also got over it. The complications for Ray have more to do with the fact that the rest of the world didn't get over it and continued using that fight as a kind of reference point for his life," Kriegel said.

Kriegel's book, and an accompanying documentary of the same name, climax with an emotional reunion in June last year between Mancini and Kim's family.

Kim's fiancée, Lee Young-Mee, had been pregnant at the time of the 1982 title fight and seven months later gave birth to a son, Kim Jiwan, now 29.

While being interviewed by Kriegel for the book, Jiwan had suggested a trip to the United States to meet with Mancini.

"As full of duty and obligation as Ray was, he wasn't going to turn down a request from the son of the man who, without intention, died at his hands," Kriegel said.

At the meeting in Mancini's home, Jiwan admitted to the "hatred" he once felt for the boxer, before absolving him of any blame.

"I think it was not your fault," he said.

The Kim-Mancini bout proved to be a watershed in boxing, triggering a series of major changes to the sport.

Championship bouts were reduced from 15 to 12 rounds, the standing eight-count was introduced and the medical tests required of boxers before a fight were overhauled.

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NBA: Foye leads Jazz over Lakers, while Noah regrets burger basket attempt

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, (AFP) - Randy Foye came off the bench and scored 17 points to lead the Utah Jazz to a 95-86 NBA victory over the star-studded but struggling Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday.

Foye made four three-pointers in the fourth quarter, while Al Jefferson completed a double-double of 18 points and 10 rebounds for Utah, who ended a three-game losing streak.

Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant scored a game-high 29 points and Dwight Howard added 19 points and nine rebounds, but the Lakers were unable to build on their first win of the fledgling season, a

108-79 victory over Detroit on Sunday.

Bryant scored the Lakers' final 14 points, but it wasn't enough for a Lakers team that have lost four of their first five games.

While the re-vamped Lakers continued their quest for chemistry, their cross-town rivals the Los Angeles Clippers handed the San Antonio Spurs their first defeat of the season, 106-84.

Blake Griffin scored 22 points with 10 rebounds and team-mates DeAndre Jordan and Chris Paul both registered double-doubles as well.

Jordan scored 20 points with 11 rebounds and Paul poured in 10 points with 12 assists against a Spurs team that swept



Utah Jazz guard Randy Foye (8)

the Clippers in the second round of last season's playoffs. Danny Green led San Antonio

with 12 points, while Tim Duncan added 10 points and six rebounds for the Spurs, who had opened the season with four straight victories.

- Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah, not known for his three-point prowess, found himself chatting Wednesday with his coach over a long-range attempt aimed at satisfying fans hoping for free hamburgers.

Chicago fans can receive a free McDonald's Big Mac if

the Bulls score 100 points in a home victory.

The Bulls were leading Orlando 99-93 with 3.8 seconds remaining in Tuesday's contest when Noah, egged on by the crowd, fired from three-point range and missed.

ESPNChicago reported Wednesday that Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau had spoken to Noah about the incident, although he declined to divulge what was said.

"I talked to him about it, but I'm going to keep that private," Thibodeau said.

"I regret it a little bit," Noah said after the game. "It wasn't a good shot."

"You have to respect the game because you never know what can happen in a game," he added. "I just got caught up in the moment and I was trying to get the people a Big Mac."

Although Noah scored 20 points with nine rebounds and four assists in the victory, he was an unlikely candidate to deliver from three-point range.

It was just his fifth three-point attempt since he entered the NBA in 2007, and he hasn't hit one yet.

Weiss gets nod as Rockies manager

DENVER, Colorado (AFP) - The Colorado Rockies on Wednesday named former shortstop Walt Weiss as the sixth manager in club history. Weiss played shortstop for the Rockies from 1994-98. He retired from baseball in 2000, and returned to Colorado as a special assistant to the general manager from 2002-2008. Overall Weiss

played 14 seasons in Major League Baseball, including stints with Oakland, Florida, Colorado and Atlanta and compiled a .258 average with 25 home runs and 386 RBI in 1,495 games. He earned American League Rookie of the Year honors 1988 and was a member of four World Series teams, including the 1989 World Series-winning Oakland Athletics. He takes over from Jim Tracy, who resigned on October 7 after more than three seasons guiding the team. Weiss will be charged with turning around a Rockies team that finished a disappointing 64-98 in 2012.



Football: continued from page 16

The Belarus side trail the top two by just three points but appear to have gone off the boil.

United were second best for most of their match with Braga but having resumed after a second-half power cut they scored three times in the last 10 minutes to give the scoreline a rather unfair look about it but still a place in the last 16.

That above all was a relief to Alex Ferguson and his players after they missed out on the knockout stages last season.

Celtic had been unfortunate

to lose 2-1 to Barcelona a fortnight ago having taken the lead but they did not make the same mistake on Wednesday more than holding their own after an early goal by the outstanding Victor Wanyama.

They sealed the points through a superbly-taken late second from 18-year-old Tony Watt - Lionel Messi grabbed a stoppage time consolation goal - prompting wild celebrations.

Congratulations to Celtic and their fans. The credit is theirs," Vilanova said.

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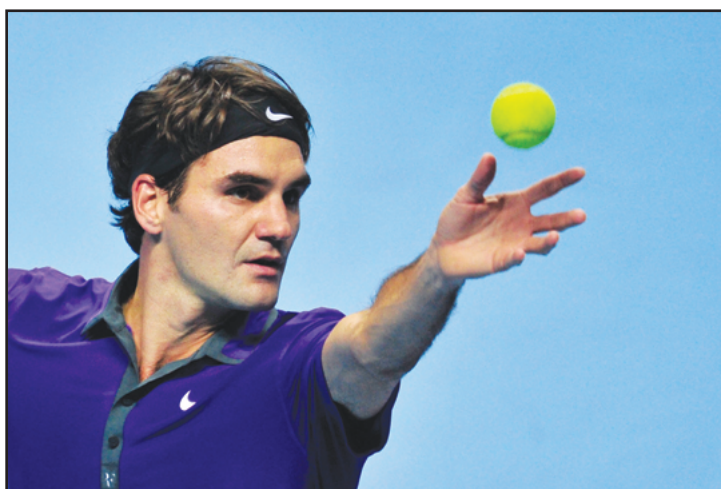
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Tennis: Federer downs Ferrer to reach semi-finals



LONDON (AFP) - Roger Federer clinched a place in the semi-finals of the ATP Tour Finals on Thursday as the defending champion ground out a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) win over Spain's David Ferrer at London's O2 Arena.

Federer required a straight sets win over the fourth seed to seal his spot in the last four with one Group B match to spare and he reached that goal despite a scrappy performance that included 39 unforced errors.

While Federer was some way from his best, the world number two displayed his priceless knack of elevating his game on the big points as the 31-year-old extended his winning run at the Tour Finals to 12 matches.

As well as securing his semi-final berth, Federer also achieved a notable personal landmark by recording his

70th match win of the year -- the first time he has done that since he was at the very peak of his form in 2006.

It was a familiar story for Ferrer, who has now lost all 14 of his meetings with Federer, and the Spaniard will need a victory over Janko Tipsarevic in his final match on Saturday to have any chance of qualify-

ing for the semi-finals.

Going into this match Ferrer had won only three of 30 sets against Federer and, although he walked on court on an 11-match unbeaten run that brought him titles at the Valencia Open and Paris Masters, the 30-year-old was soon playing second fiddle to the Swiss yet again.

Football:



(AFP) - Manchester United became the third club to reach the Champions League knockout stages after coming from behind to beat Braga 3-1 and ensure they also top their group on Wednesday.

Another British winner of European club football's premier competition - defending champions Chelsea - kept their hopes alive of avoiding the humiliation of becoming the first champions to go out at the group stage with a last gasp 3-2 home win over talented Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk.

However, while they top the group on goal difference from Shakhtar their fate probably

hangs on their trip to Italian champions Juventus in a fortnight as their hosts are just a point behind them having demolished Nordsjaelland 4-0 in Turin.

The biggest winners of the night were last season's beaten finalists Bayern Munich who humiliated hapless French side Lille 6-1 with Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro scoring a hat-trick in the first-half.

Bayern are battling it out on the same points as Valencia, who also enjoyed an easy night at home beating early pacesetters BATE Borisov 4-2.

Continues on page 15

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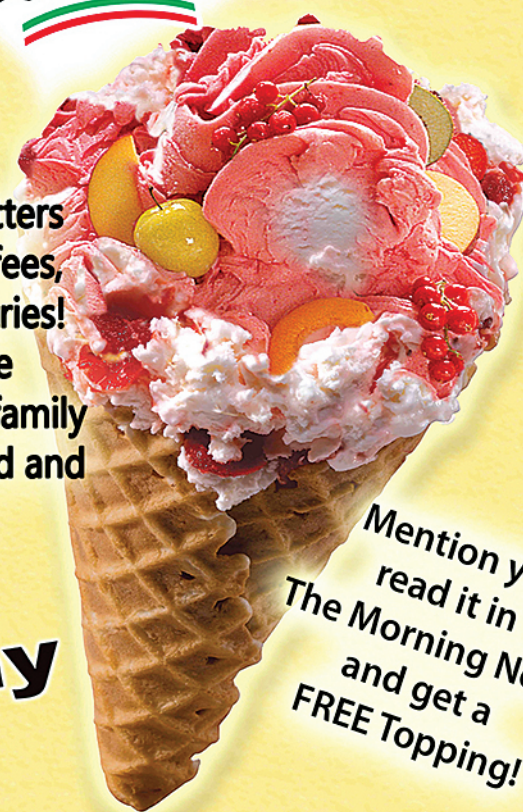
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